

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-13 were pending, with claims 8-10 and 13 allowed, claims 5, 11, and 12 have been amended, and claims 1-4 and 6 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 5, and 7-13 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 3, claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,954,454 B1) in view of Voit (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,783). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicant disagrees with this rejection, but claims 1, 2 and 4 are now cancelled without prejudice.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at page 3, numbered paragraph 4, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster et al. and Voit in view of Chan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,711,160B2). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicant traverses this rejection, but claim 3 is now cancelled without prejudice.

ALLOWABILITY OF CLAIMS 8-10 AND 13

Claims 8-10 and 13 are allowed and remain pending as previously presented.

Claims 5-7, 11 and 12 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 5, 11, and 12, have been amended to independent form to incorporate the subject matter of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 7 remains dependent now upon newly amended independent claim 5. Accordingly, claims 5, 7, and 11-12 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION:


If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. All matters have been resolved and no issues remain outstanding.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: February 14, 2008

By: 
David M. Pitcher
Registration No. 25,908

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501